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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Soviet Army Reenlistee (Sverkhstrochnik) Service	DATE DISTR.	19 July 1955	
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 23 June 1955

SUBJECT Soviet Army Reenlistee (Sverksrochnik)  
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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**Sverksrochnik T/O

1. Sverksrochniki (reenlistees) were enlisted personnel who remained on active duty following the three year period of conscripted service. They served tours in two-year increments. Such personnel occupied only those T/O positions that were specifically designated for reenlistee personnel. 1 [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] these T/O positions were: sergeant major, clerk of Billeting Section; first sergeant of mortar batteries (only one person occupied this position); NCO in charge of the Regimental Post Exchange; first sergeant of the Medical Section of the regiment; NCO in charge of POL stores; NCO in charge of officers' mess; NCO in charge of EM mess; and platoon sergeant of the Regimental Housekeeping Platoon. All of the above positions were occupied by sverksrochniki. [REDACTED] 50X1

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2. In addition to the above-listed T/O positions, it was possible that the T/O positions of NCO in charge of the Clothing and Equipment Warehouse, and NCO in charge of the Food and Forage Warehouse were also sverksrochnik positions. [REDACTED] 50X1

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Application for Re-Enlistment

3. Conscript personnel who wished to remain in active service personally made application in writing to the regimental CO about 1½ months prior to demobilization. In certain cases, personnel who occupied positions that were difficult to fill were approached by their unit CO, unit political officer, or the regimental CO himself, and asked to remain on active duty as sverkhstrochniki. [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted] Since there was only a limited number of specific positions that could be legally filled by sverkhstrochniki, it was often necessary to carry them administratively in T/O slots other than those they actually occupied. Personnel about to be demobilized could go to other regiments or units and attempt to be accepted there if all T/O positions for sverkhstrochniki were filled in their own unit. 50X1
4. [redacted] final acceptance of EM reenlistment applications rested with the division CO, although regimental CO's were able to reject applications of personnel they considered undesirable. In [redacted] it was normally the practice of the regimental CO to interview applicants before they submitted applications in writing. 50X1
5. Even though there were only a few T/O positions open to sverkhstrochnik, there seemed to be little trouble involved in being accepted, because only five to ten conscripts within the regiment applied annually. Also, there was usually a standing request for sverkhstrochniki from other units in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
6. Personnel who indicated an intent to apply for sverkhstrochnik duty were laughed at by conscripts because very few conscripts actually wanted to remain on duty beyond the three-year period of conscripted service. This resulted in the withdrawal of many applications. Normally applicants kept their intentions secret to keep from being laughed at.

New Issue for Sverkhstrochniki

7. Immediately on approval of the application for reenlistment duty, the sverkhstrochnik was required to turn in all his clothing and his service book. In place of the service book, the reenlistee was given another type of ID booklet (Udostovereniye lichnosti), the same type as was issued to officers. In place of the individual clothing, each sverkhstrochnik was given a complete new set of clothing consisting of the following items:
- a. one set of cotton OD breeches and tunic.
  - b. one garrison cap.
  - c. one set of underwear.
  - d. one cloth and one leather belt.
  - e. one set of foot wrappings.
  - f. one pair of black leather jack boots.
  - g. one new overcoat (of better quality than that issued to conscripts.)
8. For his second uniform set, the sverkhstrochnik was given an OD tunic of a heavier material than the first set, a pair of blue breeches, again of heavier material, gloves, and a service hat (furazhka). Sverkhstrochniki were also entitled to a blouse by regulation, [redacted] 50X1
- [redacted] 50X1

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Distinctive Insignia Markings

9. The only distinctive insignia worn by sverkhsrochniki, in addition to the blue breeches mentioned above, <sup>2</sup> were the yellow-colored sleeve insignias (chevrons) sketched (not to scale) and described as follows by source:



Indicates a sverkhsrochnik in his first two-year period of reenlistee service after his service as a conscript.



Indicates a sverkhsrochnik in his second two-year period of reenlistee service (three to four years reenlistee service inclusive.)



Indicates a sverkhsrochnik who had served over four years as a reenlistee. [redacted] one reenlistee in the Karlshorst compound wearing this insignia, who had about 10 years of service as a career NCO.

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10. All such chevrons in the Prenzlau Garrison were of a gold or yellow color. Source had seen some sverkhsrochniki of the medical services in Berlin wearing chevrons but of a white or silver color. Shoulder boards worn by sverkhsrochniki were of the conventional Soviet EM type.

Privileges of Reenlistees

11. Sverkhsrochniki were given the following privileges not given to conscripts:
- a. Leave - they were authorized 45 days of annual leave plus an unknown number of days of travel time.
  - b. Quarters - in East Germany, sverkhsrochniki were allowed to live in either an officers' EOQ or in conscript barracks. In the USSR they could live in civilian quarters, even if unmarried if no military quarters were provided or were available. When no military quarters were available they received a quarters allowance.
  - c. Messing - they could either eat in an officers' mess hall, if they paid the additional service charge required there, or continue to eat in the conscript EM mess.
  - d. Passes - they could freely leave the caserne during off-duty hours by merely signing out.
  - e. Marriage - they were legally authorized to marry while in service while conscripts were not.
  - f. Pay - they received better pay. [redacted] pay was based 50X1 entirely on the T/O position held and rank had no bearing on it.
- [redacted]
- g. Clothing - the clothing issue was of a better quality.
  - h. Duties - sverkhsrochniki were not required to perform work details for disciplinary purposes. They were also exempt from routine unit training. Mandatory training consisted only of political instruction, which was given to sverkhsrochniki separately. Occasionally they were required to qualify with their individual weapons or participate in some other military training as designated. They had no regular training schedule, since their jobs required full-time duty.

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- 50X1 1. Retirement Benefits - [ ] not sure whether a retirement  
50X1 program existed for sverkhsrechniki after a certain period of  
50X1 service, but [ ] such personnel would  
certainly receive some type of pension.

Dismissal of Unsatisfactory Sverkhsrechniki from Service

12. [ ] some sverkhsrechniki who became troublesome or could  
no longer perform their duties. These men were quietly demobilized.

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1. [ ] Comment: Source had never actually seen or heard  
of a printed T/O&E. However, he was certain that these slots  
were T/O slots. [ ] Some of these positions were  
being filled with reenlistees who held military ranks ranging  
from private to master sergeant.

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2. [ ] Comment: In certain Berlin units, blue breeches were also  
issued to conscripts.

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